

PRESS RELEASE



Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Don Young, Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-7749 or 225-9446 • Fax (202) 225-6275

Contact: Steve Hansen (Communications Director) (202) 225-7749

Email: Steve.Hansen@mail.house.gov

Justin Harclerode (Deputy Communications Director) (202) 226-8767

Email: Justin.Harclerode@mail.house.gov

To: National Desk/Transportation Reporter

September 19, 2006

Oversight Of FAA Safety Programs To Be Focus Of Congressional Hearing

Washington, D.C. – A Congressional subcommittee will conduct a hearing on Wednesday to review the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Safety programs.

The hearing by the **U.S. House Subcommittee on Aviation**, chaired by **U.S. Rep. John Mica (R-FL)**, is scheduled to begin at **2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20th in 2167 Rayburn House Office Building**. A live webcast of the hearing will be available at the Committee’s website:

www.house.gov/transportation

Wednesday’s Witness List

- **Nicholas Sabatini**, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Federal Aviation Administration
- **Thomas Haueter**, Deputy Director, Office of Aviation Safety, National Transportation Safety Board
- **Gerald Dillingham**, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, United States Government Accountability Office
- **Todd Zinser**, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Transportation

Background Information

Since 2001, the FAA has handled 50 million successful flights with 2.7 billion passengers flying on commercial aircraft in the United States arriving safely at their final destinations. On a typical weekday in the United States., there are an average of 33,000 airline departures/takeoffs/flights (includes cargo and foreign), 55,000 Instrument Flight Rules departures, and 180,000 takeoffs and landings at the 485 airports with control towers. On the same typical weekday, during the late afternoon Eastern time, there about 7,000 aircraft flying in the system.

The FAA is tasked with regulating the National Airspace System to promote safety and reduce and eliminate aviation accidents. The FAA is the sole certification authority for the United States civil aviation community and provides a safe, secure, and efficient global aerospace system.

Over the last four years, the fatal accident rate for airlines has reached an all time low. In fact, a passenger on a U.S. commercial airline flight is about 40 times safer in an airliner than on the Interstate highway system. General aviation fatal accidents and accidents in Alaska are down as well.

The FAA has also maintained a perfect safety record for the emerging commercial space transportation sector. There has never been a fatality, injury, or major property loss to the public from commercial space transportation.

The numbers demonstrate why the United States air transportation system is the safest in the world. In fact, FAA standards are recognized as a 'gold standard' worldwide. Many International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) safety standards were adopted from the FAA. With safety at the forefront, the FAA's continued focus is on making our national air transportation system even safer.

Wednesday's hearing will continue the Subcommittee's oversight of FAA safety efforts. The hearing may look at issues involving commercial air carrier and general aviation safety, Emergency Medical Service flights, air tours, runway safety, aging aircraft, fuel tank safety, foreign repair stations, air traffic controller staffing, FAA inspection programs, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Very Light Jets, and commercial space tourism.

**For additional information, access the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee website at:
www.house.gov/transportation**

#